

#5/A
9-7-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
Scott B. MCCRAY et al. : Attn: BOX PCT
Serial No. [NEW] : Docket No. 2001-1014A
Filed July 19, 2001 :

ETHYLENE-VINYL ALCOHOL HOLLOW :
FIBER MEMBRANES
[Corresponding to PCT/JP99/07144
Filed December 20, 1999]

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0875

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In the interest of compact prosecution and to reduce PTO filing fees, please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 15, 17, 18 and 21-24 as follows:

15. (Amended) The hollow fiber membrane product of the process of claim 1.

17. (Amended) The process of claim 1 further comprising, after the rinsing step (d) and before-the drying step (e), the step:

- (g) subjecting the rinsed hydrophilic microporous hollow fiber membrane to hot water treatment in a hot water bath at a temperature of 50° C to 100° C while relaxing tension on the fiber.